

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park
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Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Responding to Change

20 years ago, having moved across the country, I was in my first week of college. I was slowly waking on a Tuesday morning when one of my roommates returned too quickly from her 8 am class. Class had been canceled. An airplane had flown into the World Trade Center. At that time, no one had any real idea what was happening. I turned on CNN just in time to see the second plane, to witness the moment where we all started to understand this wasn't an accident but an intention.

It was a day that seemed to change so much. We, as a country, quickly seemed to come together in grief and care. But there are good reasons we're advised not to make big life changes in the first year of grief. We also quickly accepted a new level of security state that is still with us. In our grief and fear, we didn't think to question and, once we did, it was so ingrained it seemed normal.

There was also a change in the discomfort with and vitriol aimed at anyone who looked like they might be Muslim. As if all Muslims are of one mind, as if you can see religious conviction in skin color. We cannot pretend that the discrimination wasn't present before 9/11, but it became acceptable and overt in ways it hadn't been before.

We responded quickly, because response was necessary in the face of sudden change, but these changes were not intentional, well thought out decisions. They were reactionary responses. Everything has changed, we must do something.

But reactionary change does not always show us at our best. It does not guide us to where we wish we could be, who we are in our ideal. And, as we know, when it does show us at our best it is hard to hold on to. Only intentional change can sustain us in working toward our ideals.

Rosa Parks choosing to remain seated in a moment that would set off the Montgomery bus boycott and lead to the desegregation of that city's transportation system, that would inspire others to even larger actions, was not accidental or reactionary. It was intentional. While we love the story of a woman too tired to take it anymore, Ms. Parks was trained in protest and non-violent action. She was ready and committed to act when the moment arose. She, and those she worked with, knew what change they were looking for and had a plan to get there. And it worked.

Sometimes change comes upon us and we must react. 9/11 was one of those times. The current pandemic is another. When our world is overturned we must respond. But we must also evaluate those changes sooner rather than later, before they become embedded we should look and see whether they were the changes we would have chosen. While we continue to grieve those lost on 9/11, we should still ask, what if we had leaned into our unity, focused on supporting one another? What if we had done this rather than trying to building an impenetrable shell to keep us safe from "them"? How would our country be different? What different tools and responses would we have had when the pandemic arrived?

In the immediacy of the shut down in March 2020, we made many changes in our congregation. Already many have been evaluated and re-evaluated to make sure reaction lines up with our intentions. As we enter a new chapter for our congregation, a story formed by years of pandemic and selling our building, we must also be intentional in the change we are creating. So, pray with us as we discern. God, open our eyes and hearts, that we may see the change you are calling us to and we may follow with intention.

Laura

Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday School starts at 9:00 am each Sunday. All ages are invited to gather together to hear the story before we break into groups for conversation, crafts, and games.

Worship begins at 10:30 am.



Come to our next meeting of
Coffee Break for Social Justice
Everyone is invited.

ComeUnity is a group dedicated to developing discourses to nurture genuine relationships among racial, ethnic & religious backgrounds by recognizing biases in ourselves & in our communities. We are working together to further a more equitable society through education, discussion, guided conversations, social interactions, & community projects. Members & participants come from various congregations, organizations & walks of life & all are dedicated to our mission.

ComeUnity.SocialJustice@gmail.com

We hope to see you there!
Now the 2nd Thursday every month.
Room opens at 6:45pm

Thursday Gatherings

On Thursdays at 7:30pm you can join others from CCVP online or by phone through Zoom meetings to chat and/or pray. Call 1-312-626-6799. The meeting ID is 347 464 975 with password 186082. The Zoom computer link is in the weekly email announcements.

July 31, 2021 Financial Summary

	June	July	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$8,431.30	\$6,558.00	\$65,958.93
Budgeted expenses:	\$8,712.77	\$6,964.36	\$62,626.02

Figures for August were not available at the time of publication. They will be included in the next Foresight.
Thank you for your faithful giving!

Love Your Neighbor Day 2021 Is This Saturday, September 18, 2021



If you signed up as a volunteer for Love Your Neighbor Day, please meet in the back lawn of the church at 8:00am this Saturday. Come to the registration table first to check in and receive information about your assignment.

Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 3, 2021, 1-3pm



We will be walking together in person Sunday, October 3. The parking lot of First Church of Lombard at 220 S. Main Street will be our starting and finishing point. The 3-mile route will remain similar to previous years along the Prairie Path and returning on the Great Western Trail. We will stagger start times for each team between 1 and 1:30pm to avoid too many

people in one spot. And we will encourage anyone that wishes to do their own walk in their neighborhood.

75% of funds raised will benefit Church World Service programs in the Dominican Republic, providing animals and resources to enable families to start a small business and work towards becoming self-sufficient.

25% of funds raised will benefit local food pantries - including the Disciples Food Pantry - with access to food through Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The Christian Church of Villa Park has our page setup on the Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger Walk website. Here is the link to register as a walker and/or make a donation:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/christian-church-of-villa-park>

Questions? Contact Betty Prorak.

Disciples Food Pantry

August Stats:

87 Households served

299 People served

The Pantry is open every
Wednesday 9:30-11:30am.

Clients enter from Villa Avenue and
receive food by the parking lot door.

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- for spending time with family, kids, grandchildren.
- for time to enjoy God's creation, whether on local walk or on vacation.
- for Sunday school starting again in person and for all those who have been present for class.

Please Pray for...



- Ruth Martin.
- Minni Philip.
- Joan Kagebein and her family.
- Tina Amodeo.
- the volunteers and homeowners involved in Love Your Neighbor Day.
- for Susan and her daughter Seenu (friends of Tina Amodeo).
- for Sam (friend of Tina) who turned 100 on August 15.
- for medical diagnosis and treatment, healing and research.
- for transitions in life and new experiences.



The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering will be received in congregations this year on September 26th and October 3rd. Our theme is “Revealing God’s Justice: “The Time is Always Ripe to Do What is Right.” As we reflect on the events following the televised death of George Floyd, anti-Asian violence, and disparities in contraction rates of the novel Coronavirus in ethnic and racial communities, our Church strengthens its commitment to actively seek God’s justice. As followers of Christ, we believe every life is precious and valued in God’s beloved community.

Reconciliation Ministry is the church wide mission fund which supports programs and program partners that enable full human flourishing for everyone in every community. Your generosity has supported our capacity to provide grant awards to Bethany College’s Equity Community Guide, Diversity Audit and the Region of Greater Kansas City’s Becoming Beloved Community Program, as well as local congregational racial and social justice educational events. We believe that the Christian Church (Disciple of Christ) is uniquely equipped to encourage racial equity and justice in the communities where we worship and serve.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry promote our mission of creating a just and loving society. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God’s salvation is for ALL of us. The scripture in Isaiah 56:1 reads,

This is what the LORD says:

“Maintain justice
and do what is right,
for my salvation is close at hand
and my righteousness will soon be revealed.”

All of us have a role in revealing God’s justice. It is our call as the community of faith, the body of believers, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your giving promotes our capacity to respond and to reveal God’s love and justice in such a time as this

Fund-raising with Amazon, Gift Cards



Do you shop at Amazon.com? If you do, a portion of your purchase price for qualifying items can come to the Christian Church of Villa Park by choosing the church as your recipient in their AmazonSmile program. It doesn’t cost you anything extra to participate; it just shares the profit with a charity of your choice. If you have any questions, ask Betty Prorak.

The next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed at the beginning of October. Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like to order by October 3 for them to be delivered by October 10. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

The next Great Lakes Scrip gift card order will be due on November 7. There are many different gift cards available, each giving the church a portion of your purchase price. If this will be your first order from www.shopwithscrip.com, please contact Betty Prorak (BLProrak@yahoo.com) for the church’s enrollment code.



October Celebrations



- 8 Jerry Robbins
- 11 Haley Gomez
- 21 Ed Slinkman
- 28 Sofia Esparza
- 29 Melina Felix



- 17 Sue & Ray Severino